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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

91417

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE:

SUBJECT Communist Policy Toward the Catholic Church

INFO. 25X1

DIST. 14 July 1947

PAGES 2

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SUPPLEMENT

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The following are translations of two directives issued by the Polish Politburo (the Executive Committee of the Polish Workers' Party).

FIRST DIRECTIVE

- The Policy of the Vatican, the position of the Polish Episcopate and the activity of the clergy are a proof that the Church in Poland has taken a decided attitude against the democratic camp, and especially against our party. So as not to offend the community by official moves and anti-Catholic decrees, our leaders have given orders for the conduct of an energetic fight with the Church, which must be anonymous and must be conducted secretly.
- In propaganda the following should be attacked: the anti-social, anti-national and reactionary character of the Church.
- Insulate the conviction that:
  - The clergy is co-operating with the bands who are murdering people and is even taking part in these murders.
  - The clergy are Anglo-Saxon spies.
  - All the clergy belongs to WIN and NSZ--which are fascist organizations and enemies of the people.
  - The clergy is trying its hardest to take away from the peasants their land, lately acquired through the land-reform, and the factories from the workers.
  - The clergy is supporting German claims according to the Pope's orders.
  - The money collected from the faithful is sent to Rome, the Pope turning it over to be used for the reconstruction of Germany.
- According to very detailed studies it has been ascertained that the clergy is very active in the underground organizations in the whole of Poland. These are NRO, WIN ["Freedom and Independence"] and NSZ ["National Armed Forces"].

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6. A large percentage of the clergy co-operates with the PSL (Polish Peasant Party) although officially it does not belong to the party. It is especially the PSL's advisor.
6. In the first case you will try to grind out such priests, and their organizational network. You will see whether a given priest travels, where, whom he receives, where from and to what end. You will report a suspect immediately to the secretary of the PPR/county or even better, you will report directly to the UB [Secret Police]/county or WUB/province.

SECOND DIRECTIVE

7. Temporarily you will endeavor to arrange all difficulties with the Church on the basis of compromising, and maintain the "tręga Dola." In time we will arrive at the point when the "bold will vanquish the spirit," and the Church will become the servant to the state.
8. Impartially one can contend that the Church is able to cure human souls, found moral principles and strengthen legality.
9. Beginning a fight against the Church today we would risk immense losses through the undermining of our position. We cannot change our policy in connection with the Church, and this policy will be respected in all its implications following the decisions taken with the representatives of the Executive of the Polish Communist Party in Moscow.
10. Following the decision we have excluded from the land reform all Church property, we have not eliminated religion from the schools, and we order all our members to partake actively in the religious life of their communities.
11. The Church will help us exceedingly in our work as it will help appease trends-- it will do that if we do not attack it or provoke it for the time being.
12. The present moment must be a time of peace because of the fight with the PSL [Polish Peasant Party] which has come to its finishing stages; this party represents the Catholics, and because of the fight against nationalism and fascism which is patronized by the Vatican and the Hierarchy in Poland, we will always find time for a decisive and effective fight against the Church. We will also find the opportunity for it.
13. The Polish Hierarchy is supporting the so-called National Opposition Movement, seeing in this an ally in the fight against Communism. It expects if it comes into power to strengthen and widen its influence on state affairs.
14. We have proof that the Hierarchy had great expectations from a victory of the PSL in the elections, and from its taking over the Government.
15. So as to be able to control and get at better information on priests, you will win over informers, choir masters and persons who enjoy the priests' confidence.
16. If observation will give positive results you will arrest the culprit immediately, organize public prosecution, show the low moral standards of the clergy, and condemn him to death.
17. If observation gives no results, and if after a longer time nothing has been revealed, but there is certitude that the priest is the center of opposition in his community or parish, and he is an element of rebellion against the regime and the party, you will try to liquidate him, faking a bandit raid.
18. You will act in the same way with those who are co-operating with PSL and have a strong influence on the people.

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